

THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

pro bono humani generis

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Prof. McGeorge Bundy
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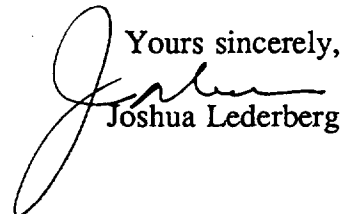
Re: people or projects.

Dear Mac:

You really put me on my mettle now, to look towards problem -solution! I had hoped to temper the governmental system in some measure, e.g., by extending the terms of grants. But what reforms had gotten started since that article was written have been wiped out in an avalanche of demands for accountability and short-term mentality. It's not at all clear that the Clinton administration will be any more sensitive.

There are a couple of positive steps -- two large foundations, in particular the Pew Trusts and the Hughes, have internalized the ideal that used to be Bill Consolazio's (at ONR and NSF) of focussing on individual talent. So their fellowships are a step in the right direction. Given the pressures on the academic institutions it's not so clear their leaders would use any bonanza for restoring creative latitude to their faculty -- rather than leveraging the money for still more programs in the current marginal style. So one step might be to try to interrogate/educate them about these issues.

You did volunteer your assistance, and I don't take that (or any other) part of your letter lightly. I will be giving more thought, under your provocation, to answers -- and want to be back in touch with you if anything emerges.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg